

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR DON KNABE

September 22, 2009

According to data from the Fall Prevention Center of Excellence, at the USC Andrus Gerontology Center, it is estimated that nearly 13 percent of Los Angeles County citizens over 1,233,000 are 60 years of age or older; and that one-third of adults over the age of 60, and 50 percent of adults over the age 80 will fall each year. The Center reported that in 2004, approximately 74,633 older adults in Los Angeles County suffered injuries from a fall great enough to result in hospitalization, with each stay averaging \$40,480 in medical costs. Further, that falls are the leading cause of injury deaths among people over the age of 60, and the leading cause of doctor visits, hospital admissions, and emergency room visits. Falling and the fear of falling can lead to depression, isolation, diminished mobility, and loss of functional independence.

Injuries from falls are a largely preventable health problem. The Fall Prevention Coalition and its member organizations, which include the Department of Community and Senior Services and other groups, are making a concerted effort in Los Angeles County to reduce falls and fall-related injuries among the elderly during the week of September 21-27, 2009 by educating older Angelenos and service providers about ways to reduce fall risk with posters, handouts, and place mats in community centers, senior housing, congregate meal sites, medical centers and hospitals.

(MORE)

MOTION

MOLINA _____

RIDLEY-THOMAS _____

YAROSLAVSKY _____

ANTONOVICH _____

KNABE _____

I, THEREFORE MOVE, THAT THE Board of Supervisors declare September 21-27, 2009 as Fall Prevention Awareness Week in Los Angeles County.

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